

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-19. (Cancelled)

20. (Previously Presented) A method of treating xerostomia, said method comprising:

administering a sialogogue composition comprising polyglutamic acid having an average molecular weight of 10,000 to 5,000,000 Daltons or a salt thereof selected from the group consisting of sodium salt, potassium salt, magnesium salt, calcium salt, ammonium salt, ethanolamine salt, and basic amino acid salt as a sialogogue; and

a carrier to form a product selected from the group consisting of chewing gum, a swallowing assistant, candy, drinks, and gummi to a patient in need thereof.

21. (Previously Presented) A method of treating xerostomia, said method comprising:

administering an oral composition comprising polyglutamic acid having an average molecular weight of 10,000 to 5,000,000 Daltons or a salt thereof selected from the group consisting of sodium salt, potassium salt, magnesium salt, calcium salt, ammonium salt, ethanolamine salt, and basic amino acid salt as a sialogogue; and

a carrier to form a product selected from the group consisting of toothpaste, mouthwash, chewing tablet, oral ointment, gargling tablet, troches, artificial saliva, denture stabilizer, and solution for the oral care system with water supply and suction functions to a patient in need thereof.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20, wherein the amount of polyglutamic acid or a salt thereof is 0.001 to 10% by weight of the total composition.

23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, wherein the amount of polyglutamic acid or a salt thereof is 0.001 to 10% by weight of the total composition.

24. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 20, wherein the sialogogue composition is administered 1 to 6 times a day.

25. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 21, wherein the oral composition is administered 1 to 6 times a day.

26. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 20, wherein said polyglutamic acid or a salt thereof is the sole active ingredient.

27. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 21, wherein said polyglutamic acid or a salt thereof is the sole active ingredient.

28. **(Previously Presented)** A method of treating xerostomia, said method comprising:
administering an oral composition comprising polyglutamic acid having an average molecular weight of 10,000 to 5,000,000 Daltons or a salt thereof selected from the group consisting of sodium salt, potassium salt, magnesium salt, calcium salt, ammonium salt, ethanolamine salt, and basic amino acid salt as a sialogogue.

29. **(New)** The method of claim 20 wherein said polyglutamic acid is a γ -polyglutamic acid.